

## SOCIAL WORKER I, HEALTH SERVICES (1991)

### I. NATURE OF WORK:

A Social Worker I, Health Services is professional clinical social work at the intermediate level providing direct social work services to clients in a special population in a health care setting. Employees in this classification do not supervise.

Employees receive moderate supervision and clinical supervision from a Social Work Supervisor, Health Services, Social Work Program Administrator, Health Services or Social Work Manager, Health Services through the evaluation of case records and through regularly scheduled conferences for the purpose of determining professional performance and the results accomplished. Employees in this class may be required to work evenings and on weekends. Work is performed in hospitals, residential facilities, clinics or local health units.

The Social Worker I, Health Services and Social Worker II, Health Services are differentiated on the basis of the degree of supervisory control exercised by the supervisor over these employees. The Social Worker I, Health Services performs duties under close supervision at times and under general supervision at times depending upon the complexity of the specific duty being performed and the Social Worker II, Health Services performs the full range of duties under general supervision.

### II. EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Examples are illustrative only)

Provides direct social work services within a health care setting to clients in a special population, such as mentally ill, developmentally disabled, physically disabled, chronically ill, geriatric, maternity, family planning, adolescents or substance abusers;

Evaluates case situations and presents information to other members of the health care team on clients' families and social background pertinent to diagnosis and treatment;

Interviews clients and family members to determine nature and degree of problems and arranges, as necessary, medical or psychiatric examinations to help identify problems pertinent to diagnosis and treatment;

Determines if a crisis situation exists and, if it does, immediately initiates appropriate intervention techniques;

Interprets psychiatric and other health care treatments to clients or families and helps with personal and environmental difficulties which interfere with obtaining maximum benefit from that care;

Works with other members of a multi-disciplinary health care team to further their understanding of social and emotional factors underlying the client's health problems;

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Helps clients to modify attitudes and patterns of behavior by increasing self-understanding and to respond constructively to treatment and assists in adjustment leading to and following the completion of treatment;

Works in close cooperation with public and private organizations to provide a plan of service to assist clients in achieving optimum social and health adjustments within the clients' capacity;

Provides therapeutic counseling as a member of a multi-disciplinary health care team;

Serves as the link between client, medical facility and the community;

May develop, within a multi-disciplinary health care team, individual treatment programs for assigned clients;

May act as a mentor providing advice and guidance to lower-level social workers, social work interns and social work students;

Performs other related duties.

### III. REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

Knowledge of clinical social casework principles and group work techniques;

Knowledge of medical and psychiatric terminology;

Knowledge of the psycho-social determinates and consequences of various diseases and disabilities;

Knowledge of individual, family and group behavioral patterns;

Knowledge of the function and organization of community health and welfare programs;

Knowledge of current social, economic and health programs and resources on local, state and national levels;

Knowledge of ways of working effectively with adults and children who have social, emotional or health problems and with their families;

Knowledge of recent developments, current literature and sources of information on clinical social work in a health setting;

Knowledge of the administrative procedures and educational techniques used in social work;

Ability to identify a crisis situation and initiate intervention techniques;

Ability to understand environmental factors in individual cases and to apply this understanding to a plan for effecting social adjustment and rehabilitation of clients;

Ability to apply social work techniques;

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Ability to work with other staff, clients, families of clients and various community organizations;

Ability to express ideas clearly and concisely;

Ability to analyze and reach sound decisions based on case information;

Ability to mentor lower-level social workers, social work interns and social work students.

### IV. MINIMUM EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

Education: Determined by the Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners under the licensing requirements for Social Workers.

Experience: None

### V. LICENSES, REGISTRATIONS AND CERTIFICATES:

1. Candidates must be licensed as a Graduate Social Worker or Certified Social Worker by the Maryland State Board of Social Work Examiners prior to appointment to a position in State service. Applicants who do not have a license may also apply pending receipt of the required license. When the license is obtained, submit a copy to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Testing Unit.
2. Candidates appointed to positions in this classification may be assigned duties which require the operation of an automobile. Employees assigned such duties will be required to possess an appropriate operator's license valid in the State of Maryland.

DATE ADOPTED: January 1, 2001

Class specifications are broad descriptions covering groups of positions used by various State departments and agencies. Position descriptions maintained by the using department or agency specifically address the essential job functions of each position.

APPROVED:

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Director, Division of Salary Administration  
and Position Classification